



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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CONTACT:
MICHELLE MOWERY JOHNSON
(615) 313-4707 / OFFICE
(615) 272-0845 / PAGER

TENNESSEE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR DISABILITY REHABILITATION SERVICES PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS PROGRAM HELPS VR CLIENTS AND STAFF

NASHVILLE, Tenn-- The Tennessee Department of Human Services and the University of Memphis are receiving national recognition for their work in vocational rehabilitation training and education. Human Services Assistant Commissioner Carl Brown and U of M professor Dr. David Strauser today accepted the 2004 Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Education and Training.

"We are very pleased that our efforts on behalf of Tennessee's disabled citizens are being recognized," said DHS Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Carl Brown. "The work taking place in Memphis is exceptional and should be considered a national model. It not only assists our clients as they embark on the road to self-sufficiency, but it also helps our staff become better equipped in working with disabled clients."

The award is one of only three given out for Excellence in Education and Training. Boston University and the University of North Texas were also honored.

The University of Memphis program operates like a teaching hospital. While services are being provided directly to clients, state employees who work in the area of Rehabilitation Services at DHS receive hands on training on how best to serve clients in their own programs. In addition, the center provides vocational, psychological, and physical assessments.

The roots of the University of Memphis Disability Rehabilitation Services Program date back 25 years. Dr. David Strauser, the director of the program, attributes the recent success to the strong alliance with DHS and its Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The award was presented by Joanne Wilson, Commissioner of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services / Rehabilitation Services Administration within the United States Department of Education.

For more information on the Department of Human Services / Division of Rehabilitation Services, please visit: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehabilitation.htm>

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700